

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been canceled and claims 2 and 4 have been amended into independent form. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 19, 2004.

Allowable Claim Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in item 3 of the Office Action that claims 2 and 4 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten into independent form to include the features of their respective base and intervening claims. Thus, it is submitted that new independent claims 2 and 4 are allowable.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 2 and 4 are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 011151
Serial No. 09/963,576

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,450

TEB/jl

1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 822-1100